November 2025
#3
HOPSPOT
Puerto Rico Art Community
Written & Edited by Kevin Del Valle

SAY NO TO

Artificial Intelligence

&

PICK UP A PENCIL

NOW LOADING...

Digital Zine highlighting artists in Puerto Rico currently doing cool things and building community

NEXT STOP... ENTREPRENEURS

MERCH SELLERS

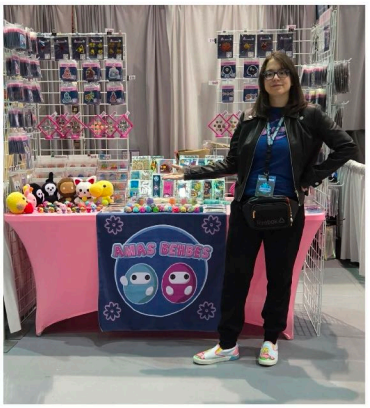
The heart of the art scene, putting their hard work out there for people to take home. These small business owners have to put their whole soul into this field, balancing both a creative and business mindset.

BOOTH BY @BORICUALY

@KACHUCHART

@PAULAMARILO

@CAMILLERECK



@AMASBEHBES

These are just some examples of the MANY hard-working artists that put extraordinary effort into what they love. What you take home at the end of the day after visiting an artist market is tangible, it's real, it's a piece of them.

IMAGE SOURCE: ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

KAWAI CON 2025

Over the past few years in Puerto Rico, this space has seen a huge growth. With new artists coming in and more local events being created focusing on artists. Vendors have been able to participate more frequently throughout the year.

@CLOUDY_KYUU
@DRAGONKITTY.ART

@JOSHUASREALM

@MOONPAPERR_ART

@NIKI.DAVI.PR

By buying art and supporting these events, you help artists financially and encourage them to continue their passion while also being able to pay rent at the end of the day.

A CLOSER LOOK!

@Boricualy

Comic artist and Animator with the culture wrapped around her heart, Genesis creates beautiful art heavily influenced by Puertorican history whilst making it distinctively her own.

She actively tables in art events, creates comics and has worked as a **Concept Artist** at Mana-T Studios.

Q: Your art is deeply inspired by Puertorican culture. How important is it for you that people whom might not be familiar with our traditions, understand it instead of romanticize it?

A: Suuuper important, I always try to educate with a few post here and there. I'm also always open for any questions related to our culture and traditions

Q: Besides being an illustrator and art vendor, you're currently working on your comic as well. How do you balance all of those things without burning out?

A: It's very hard if I'm been honest and I'm still trying to manage my work flow but right now I'm giving more priority to the comic and merchandise. I'm not prioritizing posting constantly as before because I'm working with the comic half of the day most of the time and it's already tiring enough.

Q: Puerto Rico's art market has been growing more and more! Do you and other vendors communicate and look out for each other? What's the relationship and mindset everyone shares?

A: Yes! A lot of us look out for each other and that's something that I truly appreciate. I also love the fact that this community of artists likes to educate and help new artist vendors in any way possible.

A CLOSER LOOK!

@hanamiimii

Anaís is one of the bright new upcoming artists to the entrepreneur world. Already creating a strong brand and having so much love and passion for her craft.

In a short span of time, she's hosted numerous tables at some of the biggest art events and worked as a **Background Artist** for the first ever Animated Musical Kids Series made in Puerto Rico: Rockolandia.

Q: Your style and brand are very consistent and reflect your own personal aesthetic. How important is it for you that the art you make embodies that?

A: "My art and I go hand-in-hand. Art is the reason I am who I am, and I am the reason my art is the way it is. It makes me happy, it embodies all the things I like and, most importantly, it evolves alongside me! So, for me, it's super important that I treat my artwork and branding with lots of care, since they're basically an extension of who I am. What you see is what you get! I connect with myself through what I do and use the results as a way to connect with others who enjoy the same things and can appreciate the efforts I put into creating!"

Q: What's something crucial that you've learned from being an entrepreneur that you now apply to your daily life as an artist?

A: "Financial wisdom!! Since I started selling my art, I've committed to doing basic financial administration work to prepare and manage Excel spreadsheets for literally everything monetary about my business. It's also helped me frame the way I manage my other job as a layout artist! It's definitely taught me to take all of my work seriously and keep it all in check so there's no shadow of a doubt as to how I'm doing and what I can do next, whenever money allows me to!"

Q: Lastly, what's something you'd tell someone that is about to or wants to join this space?

A: It's okay to wanna be very well-prepared before jumping into a space such as this one, but if you stress too much about feeling "ready", then you're never gonna get started! Do it nervous, do it scared, or do it brave, because at the end of the day, you did it! And that's what truly matters! Give yourself the kindness of letting yourself try, even if you don't have all the answers. Learning new things constantly and then applying them is part of the journey! So, don't give up! ♡

Book Publishers

@MREDGARDONYC - LA BORINQUEÑA

@MNR.WRITINGS - VOCES EN VIÑETAS

@ALPHONSOTORRES - TO KEEP SOMETHING UNDER

@PUALIX - STRAIGHT D's

@DIFRANCOCOMICS - RADIATION CAT

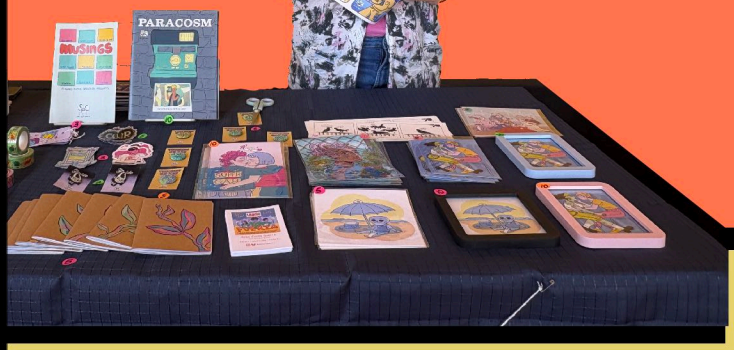
In a world where people have to read and consume new and diverse stories more than ever, these artists take the literary route to deliver their art.

The comic scene has a long history in Puerto Rico as it's the path a lot of artists took earlier on. Comics like "Turey El Taíno" and "Tato y Kenepo"are one of the biggest that ever existed in the island and their creators have inspired countless of independent artists wanting to develop their own comics.

Tato y Kenepo - Martin Guadier

Martin Guadier (creator of "Tato y Kenepo") educated and inspired thousands of kids around Puerto Rico, wether it was by going to schools providing art workshops or by having a special segment in popular children's show "La Nave de Remi"

Turey El Taino -Ricardo Álvarez-Rivón



Rosa Colón

@SODAPOPCOMICS

Rosa Colón has 2 decades of experience when it comes to being a self-made artist. Publishing comics and Co-Founding both “Soda Pop Comics” and “Tintero: Festival de Cómics y Arte Independiente” along with Carla Rodríguez.
After founding so many movements, she’s inspired multiple generations of artists to pursue comics and animation in Puerto Rico.

Rangely Garcia

@RADRANGY

Rangy is a veteran in the scene that broke into comic and animation in a space that was mostly male-dominated at the time.

As one of the creative minds behind “Atención Atención”, and the creator of the popular political satire cartoon “De la Nada”, she’s paved the way for animation here much sooner than others! And her comic debut of “NønPack” and joining US distribution through “Panico Press”, she’s been helping put PR on the map as a hub for Comics.

Mariela Figueroa

@STELLARTOONS

For Mariela, comics are a way to explore current issues in Puerto Rican society by putting them in completely different contexts. “Stories from Altamar” shows the trials and tribulations of three recently retired women pirates who, along with their robot, are raising their daughter. The sweet family wants to settle down and find a place where they can thrive. Inspired by fantasy novels and stories of pirates in the Caribbean, this comic is a beautiful depiction of unconventional motherhood and the need for a safe haven in which to be yourself.

Disciplined and focused, Mariela is one of today’s most important leaders in the Animation Industry here in PR. Most recently being the animation director in Rockolandia and project manager at Mana-T Studios.

Eliana Falcón Dvorsky

@COSMOGRAPHIARTE

Author and illustrator of Cosmic Fish

Cosmic Fish - Space Bee - La Borinqueña - Rockolandia

Cosmic Fish follows the adventures of young monsters as they explore their vibrant, strange world and unravel the mysteries of their existence. Careful readers will notice many visual references to aspects of Puerto Rican history and culture. The cobblestone streets of the fictional city of Adaluxen—like those of Old San Juan are lined with pastel-colored buildings.

Eliana Falcón-Dvorsky began Cosmic Fish in 2015 as a webcomic and has since published printed editions.

Q: You're currently celebrating 10 years of your comic, "Cosmic Fish". What does it mean to you to not only be celebrating such a feat but also see people engage with your stories for so long?

A: It's surreal, really. Technically speaking, I've only been able to work on Cosmic Fish for about 5 of these 10 years, but it has been a decade nonetheless–technically more, considering how long it took me to piece the story together before feeling brave enough to start it.

Cosmic Fish started as a test to myself to see if I could create a comic chapter, despite not having previous experience making comics–let alone drawing backgrounds. I posted it online and nervously deleted, then reposted it, then deleted, then finally bit the bullet and posted it online a third time and kept it up. Afterwards, it became more of a game of wanting to see how readers engaged with the story as time went on, see if they could solve the story. and see past what the characters were trying to present themselves as. I met amazing artists and writers from around the world, and joined a webcomic collective while I was at it. The doors opened for me at the possibility of self-publishing and meeting like-minded people who just loved to create and share stories.

The comic has always been about outsiders trying to find a place that refuses to give them space and them forcing themselves in–even if it means being killed by the ones who set the rules in the first place. It's about finding and creating a community as realistically difficult as it is. So even if the comic was never considered "big", it was clear that the people who engaged or talked to me about the work saw beyond what the comic was saying on a surface level. I think Cosmic Fish is a kind of honest conversation involving the fear of being seen, warts and all, and sometimes, when people engage with the story, it feels like someone saw themselves or even the honest bits of the writing and took a piece of it with them. I've heard stories of people at this point who have grown up with the comic even! It's a little nerve-wrecking, really, because even if I had to pause the work due to circumstances, life kept moving on regardless. I wonder a lot about those early readers and those who have grown up with the work and have moved on, if they'd be interested in seeing how the story concludes even after so long. If the part they took with them is something they'd revisit at some point. Guess I'll find out soon enough!

Q: Being a veteran of the comics industry, how have you've seen the community evolve over the years and what are some things you'd encourage peers to do in order to keep making the comic industry better?

A: I think we're on a good track. There's a lot less gatekeeping in where people get their works printed, there are a lot more collaborations and projects where people can cross-promote each other, not as a work goal, but because many of us are fans of each other's works. I tend to be pretty shy and distant when it comes to socialising with communities sadly, but seeing artist meet-ups, magazines like these, or something as simple as artist rallies shows we're looking for ways to help each other. No one is a competition, no one is doing the same thing as you are, and I think a lot of artists are aware of that now, thankfully. We just need to keep going!

Q: Lastly, for any aspiring comic artist, what are some words of advice you'd tell them when it comes to making comics in PR?

A: The simple answer is, start with something that is yourself. Start your own project, set a realistic goal, and then challenge yourself to reach it, and start the next one. Baby steps! And from experience, if you need to take a break, take the break! Even if it takes a while, but don't stop dreaming about your goal. Don't burn yourself out and always try to be your authentic self, whatever that means! The self that makes you go "hell yea, I did that!" You don't need to take a "shortcut" by relying on things that tamper with your creativity or hide who you really are like AI, tracing, or copying someone else's work. You WILL get better the more you practice, don't be afraid to challenge yourself, and don't be afraid to keep going.

I didn't study art, but animation and comic-making became the medium that worked for me to tell my stories. I wasn't great at it. I have art from when I was in my early 20s that I look back at it and think "wow, I really just went in and drew anyway, huh?" And I'm glad I did! The secret really is to keep going and not expect to impress anyone but yourself. If you make a community, if you meet like-minded people or end up getting readers, no matter if it's 1, or 5, or a million, each one of them is a connection you formed, a little string that connects you with a friend or even a total stranger. That is your humanity showing, and that is more valuable than we give it credit for. Find what it is that makes your mind wander in the middle of the night, that's your passion. Find the medium that helps you tell it, be it photography, film, animation, comic, graffiti, novels, poetry, sticky notes, what have you, and make it! Despite the sweat, tears, blood, laughs, frustrating and happy moments, just make it! Because you will wonder what it would've been like if you had, and frankly, the time will pass anyway. Take your time, but show your present self to a world that you are perceiving. Connect and live!

MEDIA PRODUCERS

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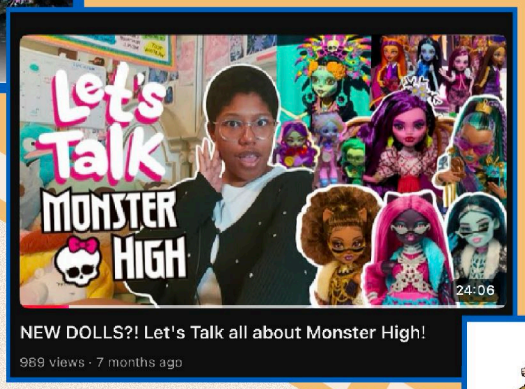
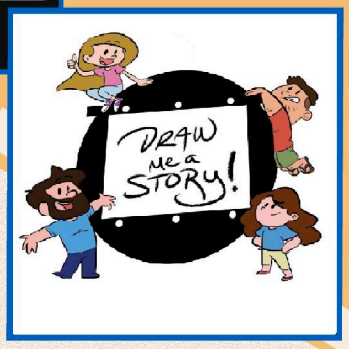


@AFROKITTY2373

@BIOMBOSHOW

Puerto Rico TV has not evolved in decades. Choosing to exclusively offer News, Gossip and "Comedy" shows. In the modern age of the internet, Puertoricans have decided to bet on themselves and start producing their own podcasts, vlogs and even fully produced indie shows. Taking their skills and placing them in a new format, these artists are building and owning the platform in which they perform for an audience desperate for new fun and original ideas from the very creative but constantly rejected film community in Puerto Rico.



@DMAS .PODCAST

Juego La Mesa

Storytellers Creatives Performers

@juegolamesa

"Juego La Mesa is a youtube channel where a group of boricuas play D&D. After a decade of playing homegames, we decided to bring our stories to a digital audience as a way of funneling our creativity. We are propelled by the desire of creating a space where boricua creatives can apply skills they otherwise would not be able to, given the absence of a large and stable creative industry in the island.

After almost 2 years at this point, Titan Game's trust, belief, and support of us since before we even started uploading videos has been a crucial part of everything we've put out. Their team is incredibly busy running large game stores in PR and backing a plethora of other efforts similar to ours. The fact that they took from their time and resources to help us grow our channel has meant everything these last years and we will be forever grateful.

Now more than ever it's possible to have the tools you need for creative endeavours at your disposal. It's not easy, but nothing worth the effort ever is. Pick up a pen, write, concept, storyboard, plan, and bounce off ideas with like-minded creatives. No point in minding what you don't have. Focus on the tools and tasks at hand." - William González

JUNTE DE ARTISTAS BORICUAS CONTRA LA JUNTA DE CONTROL FISCAL
EN DEFENSA DEL PATRIMONIO Y LA CULTURA DE PUERTO RICO
¡NO NOS SACARÁN!
No Entre

IMAGE SOURCE: VOCERO

This year it was announced that the **Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña**, which preserves our rich history of arts and culture, was announced to be soon eliminated. This would mean slowly losing any access to information about our culture and for the next generations of Boricuas to lose their identity.
Just another action taken to fully colonize us.

Senate Bill 273 (PS0273), filed by Thomas Rivera Schatz on January 23, 2025, provides for the elimination of the ICP and the creation of a specialized area within the Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC), which will assume the cultural functions, including the custody, study, conservation and restoration, of all the tangible and intangible assets of the Institute.

In a written statement Carlos Ruiz, executive director of the ICP says

"This would directly affect the entire Puerto Rican population, which benefits directly or indirectly from our services and specialized programs in visual arts, folk arts, archaeology, built historical heritage, music and dance, theater, publications and recordings, museums and parks, among others, as well as those offered by the National Library and the General Archive of Puerto Rico. Eliminating the law that created the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture is to dismantle our culture, to take a step backward and leave it orphaned."

Source: Gabriela Meléndez Rivera, EL VOCERO

Thomas Rivera Schattz - Author of this bill

Here's what a fellow educator of the arts had to say;

"I recently went to the Institute to help a friend submit a book into the archives. There, I was amazed by the walls and the collections of books; you won't find them anywhere else in the island because they aren't mass-produced.
The Institute has served as a communal space not only to honor the past, but to celebrate the present. Many of the things that have happened in the Institute have gone on to become historical moments. The photographers,writers, historians and educators that have contributed to it should be remembered.
But if the doors in those halls close, nothing will uphold those stories."

The Institute celebrates its 70th anniversary this year

"A little-known fact with everything going on in the world.
Still, we should make its importance known."

-Luis Esteban

IMAGES SOURCE: INSTITUTO DE CULTURA PR

While the creative industry burns down due to profit-obsessed losers in power, **nosotros seguimos aquí.**

As you can see, Art Entrepreneurs are very active in PR. Continuously working hard to be able to make the art they want and to build a creative ecosystem within the island.

Today's call to action is

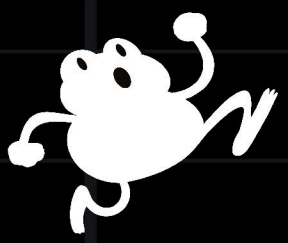
MAKE ART

It's now more important than ever for artists to make art, because in an age where AI tries to diminish the value of what we do and mimicry gets viewed as creativity, being original is seen as a rare thing.

Make intentional, sincere and truthful art.

That's something this new attention-driven economy will never be able to duplicate, as it depends on the security of regurgitating what came before.

WRITTEN & EDITED
BY
@SKETCHY_KEV



THANKS FOR READING...LATER

Hopspot PR ART COMMUNITY

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